JACK REED
2ND DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEES
EDUCATION AND LABOR
JUDICIARY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Congress of the United States

PLEASE RESPOND TO:
WASHINGTON:
☐ 1229 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3902
(202) 225-2735

January 29, 1993

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Reed:

I am an active member of Rhode Island's largest radio control model airplane club, the Rhode Island Aeromodelers. Due to the prohibitive cost of flying full scale private aircraft, I spend most of my leisure time building and flying model aircraft.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding frequencies in the 72-76 MHz band. The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the use of frequencies currently assigned for model airplane use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability.

The FCC proposal will create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the plan. This will cause many mobile land frequencies to move closer to model frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. If the proposal is adopted, the current 50 model frequencies will be reduced to just 19.

Safety during flight operations of our model aircraft is our highest priority. We must carefully coordinate the use of available frequencies to insure that two models on the same frequency never fly at the same time. Reducing the number of frequencies for model use will congest the remaining frequencies and greatly increase the risk of accidents.

It important to understand just how dangerous a model airplane can be if it is affected by radio interference from a land mobile unit. The aircraft I currently fly took me 350 hours to build and cost $500. It weighs 15 pounds and flies at speeds up to 60 miles per hour. It is flown at organized events that include a spectator crowd. The potential for property damage, serious injury or even death is very high if radio control of the plane is interfered with or lost. The Rhode Island Aeromodelers and all model airplane clubs need the full compliment of radio frequencies to insure a safe flying environment.

While the FCC may not think radio control aeromodeling is as important a business function as land mobile radio use is, it must understand the contribution it makes towards the commercial aviation industry by interesting thousands of young people in aircraft design, construction, and flight. Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHz band.

Sincerely,

John Garlock
20 Lauren Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

John W. Juechter
460 Stone Ridge Drive, East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818, Telephone - 401-885-3051

February 2, 1993

The Honerable John Reed
1299 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Reference: *FCC Rule Making - PR Docket 92-235*
(Our File AMA-1)

Dear Mr. Reed:

I am a builder of model airplanes, and have been so since 1936. I am now retired and enjoying my hobby of building radio-controlled model aircraft. Contemporary model aircraft radio control has opened up a wide range of unique aircraft that may be modelled in true scale because of the proportional control these radios provide to the modeler. In my case, that has resulted in my building some 14 flyable radio-controlled aircraft, with 7 radios and 20 or more engines. My investment, in radios, engines, aircraft, tools, and support equipment exceeds $8000. I am a member of the Rhode Island Aeromodelers Club.

About 1989 or 1990, our national governing body, the AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics, 160,000 members), was able to negotiate with the FCC for an expanded band of radio frequencies (in the 72 and 75 megahertz [MHz] bands) for our usage. To enable us to make proper use of them, it was necessary for us to have our existing equipment upgraded to more precise standards. The new channels which were enabled by this legislation doubled the number we had available by locating the new channels midway between adjacent existing channels, so that our old transmitters had to be tuned more exactly to the channel frequency, and the exiting receivers had to be junked and new ones bought. This resulted in an approximate $75 cost per transmitter/receiver pair to each modeler.

I am concerned about proposed rules currently under consideration by the FCC, PR Docket 92-235, that, it adopted, will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Presently, our channels are located 0.020 MHz apart, i.e., Channel 14 has a frequency of 72.070 MHz; Channel 15, 72.090 MHz. Presently, there are *fixed location* pager frequencies located midway between our channels, 0.010 MHz from our frequencies. Since these are fixed in location, by using an expensive frequency scanner periodically borrowed from the AMA, we can check the "foreign" frequencies having significant strength at our flying field and advise our members if any of our assigned frequencies *may* be affected. Thus, the present situation, while not *ideal* from our standpoint, is certainly workable with some caution on our part.

PR Docket 92-235 would assign additional frequencies 0.0025 and 0.0075 MHz away from our assigned frequencies, the allowable bandwidth of those frequencies would overlap our assigned frequencies, and the allowable power output of those transmitters would be 4 times ours. Furthermore, these proposed frequencies would be assigned to *mobile* telecommunications. Thus, frequency sweeps of our flying area would be meaningless as soon as they were completed.

It appears, therefore, that the FCC seeks to improve operating conditions of land mobile radio users (to be able to use equipment not yet built) at the expense of radio control modelers (using equipment already bought and paid for). While the FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radio, we have a considerable investment in out model equipment and represent a large national industry. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like me and contributes to advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help us to continue to enjoy our hobby by not allowing the FCC to enact PR Docket 92-235.

Very truly yours,

John W. Juechter

February 7, 1993

The Honorable John F. Reed
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Reed:

I have been interested in aviation for as long as I can remember. I am very active in a local club whose members enjoy constructing radio controlled model airplanes.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHZ band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower band widths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. We currently have 50 frequencies that will not change even if the new rules are adopted, but only 19 of the 50 will be usable.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds and can travel at speeds of approximately 100 MPH. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHZ band.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Altomari

Michael E. Altomari
5 Cold Spring Avenue
North Providence, RI 02911